

Message Text

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SUBJ: MARCH 16 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX

1. SYNDICATED COLUMNIST JOSEPH KRAFT, WRITING IN BALTIMORE
SUN, REPORTED THAT IN SERIES OF RECENT WHITE HOUSE MEETINGS,
PRESIDENT CARTER HAS DECIDED "TO GO STRONG AND FAST" FOR
SECOND SALT ACCORD. KRAFT SAID "IT IS CLEAR TO PRESIDENT
THAT THERE IS NO INTRINSIC LINKAGE BETWEEN PANAMA AND
SALT. PANAMA IS VESTIGE OF COLONIAL PAST.... SALT, ON
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OTHER HAND, IS CENTRAL TO THIS COUNTRY'S RELATIONS WITH
SOVIET UNION.... SECOND SALT ACCORD WILL KEEP DOOR OPEN FOR
FURTHER LIMITATION OF ARMS, AND FOR MORE COOPERATION IN
POLITICAL SPHERE. WHITE HOUSE CALCULATES THAT IF THERE IS
NO AGREEMENT, STRATEGIC ARMS BUDGETS FOR RUSSIA AND U.S.
WILL EACH RISE BY ONE-THIRD WITHOUT EITHER SIDE'S ATTAINING
SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGE. PAINFULLY ESTABLISHED SYSTEM OF

MONITORING, CONSULTATION AND VERIFICATION WOULD GO BY BOARDS." KRAFT SAID SOVIETS HAVE PROVED "FLEXIBLE AND FORTHCOMING IN GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS" AND THERE HAS BEEN SOVIET MOVEMENT ON SEVERAL ISSUES. KRAFT NOTED THAT SOVIETS HAVE ACCEPTED AN AMERICAN PROPOSAL THAT THERE BE AN EXCHANGE

OF DATA BASES IN ORDER TO ENHANCE EACH SIDE'S KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT OTHER IS DOING. "CONTRARY TO ONE PUBLISHED REPORT, NO SERIOUS HITCHES HAVE YET DEVELOPED IN THIS EXCHANGE." HE SAID ADMINISTRATION HOPE IS THAT GENERAL ACCORD CAN BE REACHED IN GENEVA "SOMETIME BEFORE SUMMER." FINAL SETTLEMENT OF MOST TOUCHY ISSUES, NOTABLY BACKFIRE, PROBABLY WOULD BE RESERVED FOR CARTER-BREZHNEV SUMMIT MEETING, KRAFT SAID. "TREATY WILL THEN BE PUT TO SENATE BEFORE ELECTION."

2. SYNDICATED COLUMNISTS ROWLAND EVANS AND ROBERT NOVAK, IN WASHINGTON POST, REPORTED THAT ACDA'S ATTEMPT TO REASSURE CONGRESS THAT SALT TWO TREATY COULD BE VERIFIED TRIGGERED "BACKSTAGE INTERCHANGE BETWEEN PENTAGON BRASS AND ACDA." THEY SAID "USUALLY TAME GENERALS AND ADMIRALS" WERE OUTRAGED WHEN ACDA CLAIMED JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF AGREED "WITH THIS DUBIOUS ASSURANCE." EVANS AND NOVAK SAID "WHILE NOT YET READY TO GO PUBLIC WITH THEIR MISGIVINGS, UNINFORMED MILITARY ARE UNWILLING TO BLINDLY RUBBERSTAMP TREATY BEING NEGOTIATED BY ACDA DIRECTOR UNCLASSIFIED

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PAUL WARNKE." POINTING TO DECEPTION AND SUBTERFUGE, EVANS AND NOVAK SAID WARNKE'S COVERING LETTER TO ACDA'S FEB. 23 PAPER ON SALT TWO VERIFICATION, ASSERTED THAT PAPER WAS "APPROVED" BY JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF. "THAT WAS NEWS TO ASTONISHED CHIEFS WHEN THEY READ ABOUT IT IN POST FEB. 25," COLUMNISTS SAID. GEN. BERNARD ROGERS, CHIEF OF STAFF OF ARMY, AND ADM. JAMES HOLLOWAY, CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS, "WERE INCENSED BY WARNKE'S MISREPRESENTATION," EVANS AND NOVAK SAID. THEY REPORTED THAT IN FEB. 28 LETTER TO ACDA DEPUTY DIRECTOR KEENY, VICE ADM. PATRICK HANNIFIN, DIRECTOR OF JOINT STAFF, EMPHASIZED JCS HAVE NOT AGREED TO VERIFICATION STATEMENT AND ASKED ACDA TO SET RECORD STRAIGHT. COLUMNISTS SAID "THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE ACDA HAD NO INTENTION OF COMPLYING WITH REQUEST AND PLANNED TO FORGET ABOUT LETTER." BUT, THEY CONTINUED, HANNIFIN'S LETTER LEAKED RIGHT UP TO CAPITOL HILL, AND ON MARCH 8, CONGRESSMAN ROBIN BEARD WROTE PRESIDENT CARTER PROTESTING THAT "CONGRESS CANNOT BE ISOLATED FROM HEARING DISSENTING OPINIONS." EVANS AND NOVAK SAID "SINCE MATTER COULD NOT LONGER BE QUIETLY FORGOTTEN, IT WAS NECESSARY TO GIVE CONGRESS IDEA THERE ARE 'NO DISSENTING OPINIONS.' ROLE FELL TO MEMBER

OF JOINT CHIEFS MOST FAITHFUL TO ADMINISTRATION POLICY:
GEN. DAVID JONES AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF AND ACTING
CHAIRMAN OF CHIEFS IN ABSENCE OF TRAVELING GEN. GEORGE
BROWN. ON MARCH 9, TWO FULL WEEKS AFTER WARNKE'S
LETTER, JONES WROTE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE HAROLD BROWN
EXPLAINING IT ALL: MILITARY HELPED PREPARE REPORT,
BUT JOINT CHIEFS 'BELIEVE IT PRUDENT TO WITHHOLD FINAL

JUDGMENT ON OVER-ALL VERIFIABILITY OF ANY SALT TWO
AGREEMENT UNTIL ALL PROVISIONS OF TREATY ARE KNOWN.'
INITIAL ANGER OF CHIEFS AND ADM. HANNIFIN'S POLITELY
ACCUSATORY TONE HAD BECOME BLAND AMIABILITY." EVANS AND
NOVAK SAID JONES' LETTER WAS READ INTO RECORD BY VANCE
AT CLOSED SESSION MARCH 10 OF SENATE ARMED SERVICES
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON ARMS CONTROL. "REPLYING TO OUR QUES-
TION, AN ACDA SPOKESMAN SAID VANCE'S READING OF GENERAL'S
WORDS COMPLIED WITH ORIGINAL PENTAGON REQUEST FOR 'SET-
TING RECORD STRAIGHT' ON WARNKE'S MISREPRESENTATION. IN
SHORT, ACDA PLANS TO NEITHER ADMIT NOR CONCEDE ANYTHING."

3. THOMAS O'TOOLE OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT
CARTER ADMINISTRATION SAID YESTERDAY IT PLANS TO DEMON-
STRATE BY 1983 THAT SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL CAN BE SAFELY
STORED AND BY 1988 THAT RADIOACTIVE WASTES CAN BE PER-
MANENTLY BURIED WITHOUT HARMING ENVIRONMENT. THIS WAS
TIMETABLE LAID OUT BY DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S TASK FORCE
ON NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT, O'TOOLE SAID. ENERGY
DEPARTMENT ALSO SAID BY 1985 IT WILL BEGIN TO BURY PLU-
TONIUM WASTES IN AN ABANDONED SALT MINE IN NEW MEXICO.

4. DEFENSE/SPACE DAILY (MARCH 14) QUOTED SENATOR
MCGOVERN AS SAYING U.S. SHOULD NOT SEEK "RELATIVE
ADVANTAGE" OVER SOVIET UNION IN NEW SALT TREATY BUT
RATHER AN AGREEMENT THAT WILL "SERVE BOTH SIDES."
MCGOVERN'S DECLARATION LAST WEEK AND SIMILAR REMARKS
EARLIER BY SENATOR KENNEDY, PUBLICATION SAID, WERE SEEN
AS AN ATTEMPT BY SENATE LIBERALS TO HEAD OFF ANTICI-
PATED OPPOSITION IN SENATE TO SALT TWO TREATY. "NO ONE
KNOWLEDGEABLE IN AREA OF SALT HAS SUGGESTED THAT UP-
COMING TREATY WOULD GIVE U.S. AN ADVANTAGE OVER SOVIETS,"
PUBLICATION ADDED. "NONETHELESS, MCGOVERN, IMPLYING
THAT U.S. IS SEEKING SUCH AN ADVANTAGE, SAID THAT SALT
TWO SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO PERMIT 'BOTH SIDES TO DETER
WAR AT REDUCED DANGERS AND COSTS.'"

5. NEW YORK TIMES PUBLISHED UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL
DISPATCH REPORTING THAT CHINA DETONATED NUCLEAR DEVICE
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MARCH 14 IN ATMOSPHERE AT ITS LAB NOR TEST SITE IN NORTHWESTERN PART OF COUNTRY. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SPOKESMAN SAID EXPLOSION HAD YIELD OF LESS THAN 20 KILOTONS. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ORDERED ACTIVATION OF ITS ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING STATIONS TO WATCH FOR FALLOUT AS RADIOACTIVE DEBRIS FROM BLAST DRIFTS AROUND WORLD. UPI SAID IT WAS FIRST CHINESE NUCLEAR TEST IN ATMOSPHERE SINCE DEVICE OF SIMILAR YIELD WAS DETONATED LAST SEPT. 17. MUCH LARGER WEAPON, WITH YIELD OF FOUR MEGAGONS, WAS SET OFF NOV. 17, 1976.

UPI SAID IT USUALLY TAKES SEVERAL DAYS FOR RADIOACTIVE DEBRIS FROM CHINA TO MOVE ACROSS PACIFIC OCEAN AND PASS OVER U.S. VANCE

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